

PATENT
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APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT

TITLE: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
METHOD, AND PROGRAM STORING MEDIUM

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INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND
PROGRAM STORING MEDIUM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an information processing apparatus and method, and program storing medium, and particularly relates to an information processing apparatus and method, and program storing medium, for operating contents.

2. Description of the Related Art

In recent years, digital technology has become commonplace, and accordingly various types of data such as music data, image data, etc., have come to be digitally recorded to and reproduced from recording media.

Now, the number of times that the data can be reproduced, the period of time within which the data can be used, etc., may be restricted based on rights information corresponding to the data, in order to protect copyrights.

Further, users can purchase various types of data such as music data, image data, etc., at terminals installed at shops which sell such various types of data, and record the data in his/her own personal computer for use thereby. With regard to data purchased at shops and so forth, according to the corresponding rights information, either moving is

permitted without any restriction on the number of times, or moving is permitted for one time only, and following this moving, only check-in or check-out is permitted.

However, the user cannot tell which operations are permitted for the data, unless a dialog box or the like is not displayed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been made in light of the above problem, and accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to enable the user to know operations permitted for the contents in a speedy manner, without troublesome operations.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, an information processing apparatus comprises: reading control means for controlling reading out, from the recording medium, data relating to the contents and rights information corresponding to the contents; and display control means for controlling display such that a first icon is displayed corresponding to the data, in the event that the rights information indicates permission of importing of the contents.

The display control means may further control display such that a second icon is displayed corresponding to the data in the event that the rights information permits check-